

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /080 W

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R 120835Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5307

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 8890

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJECT: TOKYO METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS

REF: TOKYO 8690

SUMMARY: LDP, IN WINNING 51 SEATS IN TOKYO METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY ELECTION, HAS BEEN REASSURED THAT IT CAN RUN WELL IN URBAN AREA EVEN UNDER PRESENT POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES, PROVIDED IT RUNS SCARED AND CAMPAIGNS VIGOROUSLY. MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, RESULTS OFFER ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING JCP EROSION OF JSP POSITION AS LEADING PARTY ON IDEOLOGICAL LEFT, AS COMMUNISTS (24) SURPASSED SOCIALISTS (20) IN NUMBER OF SEATS WON. KOMEITO INCREASED ONE SEAT (TO 26) TO REMAIN NUMBER TWO PARTY IN ASSEMBLY, WHERE IT HOPES TO UTILIZE ITS QTE CASTING VOTE UNQTE TO PLAY KEY ROLE. RESULTS ALSO CONFIRMED DECLINE IN SUPPORT FOR DSP, WHICH LOST TWO OF FOUR SEATS IT HELD FORMERLY. END SUMMARY.

1. NUMBER OF SEATS WON BY EACH PARTY REPORTED TOKYO 8690.

2. NUMBER AND PERCENT OF VOTES, BY PARTY, THIS ELECTION COMPARED TO LAST ASSEMBLY ELECTION HELD IN 1969 (SHOWN IN PARENTHESES) AS FOLLOWS:

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LDP 1,635,523 34.13 PERCENT (1,493,993) (33.0 PERCENT)

KOMEITO 845,992 17.66 PERCENT (784,090) (17.3 PERCENT)

JCP	968,210	20.21 PERCENT (653,811 (14.4 PERCENT)
JSP	984,476	20.54 PERCENT (1,096,493) (24.2 PERCENT)
DSP	173,614	3.62 PERCENT (221,132) (4.9 PERCENT)
MINOR PARTIES	682	0.01 PERCENT (1,811 (0.0 PERCENT)
INDEPENDENTS	183,352	3.83 PERCENT (276,663) (6.1 PERCENT)
TOTAL	4,791,849	4,527,993

3. FOR FURTHER COMPARISON, DEC 10, 1972 GENERAL ELECTION
VOTES TOTALS FOR TOKYO (EXCLUDING MINOR PARTIES AND INDEPENDENTS)
WERE AS FOLLOWS:

LDP	1,383,579
KOMEITO	827,921
JCP	985,511
JSP	993,687
DSP	383,532
TOTAL	5,004,128

4. PRIMIN TANAKA EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT SURPRISINGLY
STRONG SHOWING OF LDP LATE MONDAY AFTERNOON FOLLOWING ANNOUNCE-
MENT OF FINAL RETURNS. HE TOLD NEWSMEN AT LDP HEADQUARTERS
THAT SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO RETAIN 51 SEATS IN TOKYO ASSEMBLY
COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN WAGED BY PARTY IN
FACE OF WIDESPREAD PREDICTIONS OF SHARP DECLINE IN NUMBER OF
SEATS IT WOULD WIN. STATING THAT RESULTS SHOWED THAT LDP HAS
WON SUPPORT OF TOKYO CITIZENS WITH SPECIFIC PROGRAMS TO DEAL
WITH RISING PRICES AND OTHER URBAN PROBLEMS, PRIMIN EXPRESSED
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CONFIDENCE THAT LDP COULD MUSTER SIMILAR SUPPORT NATIONWIDE
IN HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS ELECTION NEXT YEAR. OTHER LDP SPOKESMEN
HAVE ALSO BEGUN TO DISPLAY SIMILAR SIGNS OF RESTORATION OF
CONFIDENCE.

5. LDP WON SEATS IN ALL DISTRICTS EXCEPT BUNKYO WARD (37 OUT
OF 38 DISTRICTS), INCLUDING BOTH SEATS IN CHIYODA WARD.
LDP-NEW CANDIDATE EASILY WON SEAT IN NEW DISTRICT CREATED IN
FUCHU CITY.

6. MAJOR UPSET IN ELECTION WAS DECLINE OF JSP, WHICH FAILED
TO WIN AT LEAST 30 SEATS IN ASSEMBLY AS PREDICTED. INSTEAD, JSP WON

ONLY 20 SEATS AND DROPPED BELOW JCP WHICH WON 24 SEATS. JOINT JSP-JCP CANDIDATE LOST IN ONE CITY.

7. WHILE GOVERNOR RYOKICHI MINOBE (JSP) EXPRESSED PRO-FORMA SATISFACTION THAT THREE PARTIES WHICH SUPPORT HIS ADMINISTRATION (JSP, JCP AND KOMEITO) SECURED MAJORITY OF ASSEMBLY SEATS, HE ALSO GLUMLY NOTED WITH REGRET THAT JSP AND JCP FAILED TO WIN AS MANY SEATS AS PREDICTED. (BEFORE ELECTION HE PREDICTED PUBLICLY THAT JCP AND JSP WOULD WIN COMBINED TOTAL OF 63 SEATS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT LDP WOULD DROP BELOW 30.) HE ATTRIBUTED POOR SHOWING OF OWN PARTY TO QTE FLUIDITY UNQTE OF BASE OF POPULAR SUPPORT, NOTING SIGNS THAT PRO-JSP UNIONISTS ARE INCREASINGLY INCLINED TO SUPPORT JCP. INTERPRETING RESULTS AS INDICATION OF LACK OF POPULAR DESIRE FOR DRASTIC CHANGE IN HIS ADMINISTRATION OF TOKYO, MINOBE SAID THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE TO FOLLOW PRESENT BASIC POLICY LINE. HE SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT ANY THOUGHT OF RESCINDING TOKYO PUBLIC SAFETY ORDINANCE. (IN SEPARATE STATEMENT KOMEITO SPOKESMAN ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HIS PARTY WOULD OPPOSE ANY MOVE TO RESCIND PUBLIC SAFETY ORDINANCE.) IN UNUSUALLY FRANK COMMENT TO NEWSMEN, MINOBE QUESTIONED WHETHER ELECTION RESULTS SHOW THAT TOKYO CITIZENS SUPPORTED HIS ADMINISTRATION OR PRIMIN TANAKA. IN VIEW OF SUPPORT OFFERED BY THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES (JSP, JCP AND KOMEITO) HE PREDICTED THAT HIS OWN RELATIONS WITH ASSEMBLY WOULD IMPROVE. NEVERTHELESS, IN POST-ELECTION APPEARANCE ON TV, MINOBE SEEMED DOWNCAST AT JSP LOSSES WHICH NOW EXPOSES HIM TO GREATER JCP PRESSURES, AND TO KOMEITO WHICH SEEKS GREATER VOICE IN ASSEMBLY QTE UNDER MINOBE UMBRELLA UNQTE.

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8. FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS, JSP CHAIRMAN TOMOMI NARITA SAID THAT HIS PRTY LOST BECAUSE IT FAILED TO CAMPAIGN ACTIVELY IN URBAN AREAS. ON TUESDAY, JSP, SMARTING UNDER LOSSES SUFFERED IN TOKYO ASSEMBLY ELECTION WON BY JCP, DECIDED TO CONVENE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 28 TO DISCUSS MEANS TO REBUILD PARTY FORTUNES AND RECONSIDER 1974 UPPER HOUSE ELECTION POLICY. JSP CONCEPT OF COALITION GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES ALSO EXPECTED TO BE DEBATED HEATEDLY, AS WELL AS PARTY POSITION ON RELATIONS WITH JCP AND KOMEITO. BOTH CHAIRMAN NARITA AND SECREATRY GENERAL MASASHI ISHIBASHI HAVE STATED THAT IT PREMATURE TO SPEAK OF JSP DECLINE ON BASIS OF ONLY ASSEMBLY ELECTION RESULTS. HOWEVER, ELEMENTS WITHIN JSP HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO CRITICIZE PRTY LEADERSHIP FOR HAVING DRIVEN EDA FACTION AND OTHER RIGHT-WING FORCES OUT OF EXECUTIVE POSITIONS AT CONVENTION EARLY THIS YEAR, WHICH THEY CHARGE PREVENTED CAMPAIGNING FOR ASSEMBLY WITH UNITED PARTY.

9. KOMEITO, COMPETING IN THIRD ASSEMBLY ELECTION SINCE 1963, ELECTED 25 OR 26 CANDIDATES, INCLUDING ONE IN CHUO WARD

FOR FIRST TIME AND ALL THREE INCUMBENTS IN TAMA DISTRICT WHERE SUCCESS WAS NOT PREDICTED TO BE CERTAIN. HOWEVER, THIS MARKED FIRST TIME KOMEITO FAILED TO ELECT ALL ITS CANDIDATES FOR ASSEMBLY. AFTER PARTY HAD RETAINED POSITION AS LEADING OPPOSITION PARTY IN ASSEMBLY, CHAIRMAN TAKEIRI PLEDGED THAT KOMEITO WOULD CONTINUE TO PURSUE ANTI-GOVERNMENT, ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT POLICIES.

10. JCP FAILED IN TRY FOR PERFECT RECORD OF ELECTING CANDIDATE IN EACH OF TOKYO'S 23 WARDS, LOSING OUT IN CHIYODA AND CHUO WARDS. HOWEVER, RUNNING TWO CANDIDATES EACH IN FOUR WARDS FOR FIRST TIME JCP ELECTED BOTH IN SETAGAYA, SUGINAMI AND OTA WARDS.

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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IN ITABASHI WARD NEW CANDIDATE WON, BUT INCUMBENT LOST. JCP CHAIRMAN KENJI MIYAMOTO STATED MONDAY THAT HIS PARTY FAILED TO GAIN MORE SEATS IN ASSEMBLY BECAUSE OF INTERNAL DISPUTES OVER ITS POSITION ON DIET RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN RECENT PRC NUCLEAR TEST. FAILURE OF JCP TO SUPPORT DRAFT RESOLUTION APPROVED JOINTLY BY ALL OTHER PARTIES IN LOWER HOUSE JULY 5 PROVOKED UNEXPECTEDLY STRONG REACTION WHICH PROMPTED MIYAMOTO TO ANNOUNCE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY THAT JCP WOULD REVERSE TRADITIONAL STAND OF CONDEMNING AGGRESSIVE CAPITALIST TESTS BUT NOT DEFENSIVE SOCIALIST TESTS AND THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT DRAFT RESOLUTION IN UPPER HOUSE, PROVIDED IT CONDEMNED ALL TESTS, INCLUDING THOSE BY U.S. HOWEVER, JCP MEMBER OF UPPER HOUSE POLICY COMMITTEE FAILED TO GET WORD IN TIME AND OPPOSED RESOLUTION, TO DELIGHT OF ALL OTHER PARTIES, WHICH MADE GOOD USE OF UNUSUAL GAFFE IN REMAINING HOURS OF CAMPAIGN.

11. MOST INCISIVE EDITORIAL COMMENT APPEARED IN SANKEI, WHICH STATED THAT RESULTS SHOW THAT JSP IS DECLINING FASTER

THAN LDP. UNLESS JSP RECOVERS, SANKEI SPECULATED THAT FALL OF LDP GOVERNMENT MAY BE FOLLOWED BY ESTABLISHMENT OF REFORMIST GOVERNMENT LED BY JCP. ASAHI CONCLUDED THAT ELECTION DID NOT PRODUCE DRASTIC CHANGE IN ASSEMBLY UNDER REFORMIST MINOBE ADMINISTRATION, OTHER THAN CHANGE IN RANKING OF JSP AND JCP. MAINICHI NOTED THAT LDP DECLINED FROM 55 SEATS IT WON IN 1969 ELECTION, EVEN THOUGH IT RETAINED 51 SEATS IT HELD AT DISSOLUTION.

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MAINICHI COMMENTED THAT RESULTS DID NOT SIGNIFY REDUCTION IN POPULAR CRITICISM OF PRIMIN TANAKA POLICIES. IN PRACTICALLY DISREGARDING KOMEITO AS NUMBER ONE OPPOSITION PARTY IN NEW ASSEMBLY, YOMIURI FORECAST THAT STEERING ASSEMBLY WILL BE COMPLICATED BY SHARP CONFRONTATION EXPEDITED TO DEVELOP IN RESPONSE TO JCP GAINS IN CONTRAST TO JSP STAGNATION. DESPITE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THREE PRITIES PLEDGED TO SUPPORT HIM, YOMIURI CONCLUDED THAT MINOBE ADMINISTRATION CANNOT BE CONSIDERED STABLE.

12. IN NINE OUTLYING SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS LOCATED BEYOND MULTIPLE MEMBER DISTRICTS LOCATED IN EACH OF CENTRAL TOKYO'S 23 WARDS, LDP WON SEATS IN TACHIKAWA, FUCHU, AKISHIMA, MACHIDA, NISHITAMA AND MINAMITAMA WHERE JCP AND JSP EACH RAN OWN CANDIDATE. IN ALL BUT NISHITAMA, HOWEVER, COMBINED TOTAL FOR JSP AND JCP CANDIDATES EXCEEDED LDP VOTE. IN OME, LDP DEFEATED JOINT JSP-JCP CANDIDATE IN TWO-MAN RACE.

13. JSP SUPPORT GROUP SPOKESMEN HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO CRITICIZE QTE EGOISM UNQTE OF JCP WHICH REFUSED TO RUN MORE JOINT CANDIDATES IN THESE SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS. ON OTHER HAND, LDP ALSO ENCOURAGED BY CLEAR-CUT VICTORY OVER JOINT JSP-JCP CANDIDATE IN OME, AND BY MAJORITY VOTE IT GAINED AGAINST SEPARATE JSP AND JCP CANDIDATES IN NISHITAMA. LDP FURTHER REASSURED BY RESULTS IN THESE DISTRICTS THAT IT NEED NOT CONCEDE VOTE OF MAMMOTH HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN THESE COMMUTER SUBURBS TO REVISIONISTS. ALTHOUGH IMPLICATIONS OF THESE DISTRICTS ARE SOMEWHAT UNCLEAR EACH PARTY DOUBTLESS WILL DRAW OWN CONCLUSION ON BASIS OF THESE RESULTS IN CONTINUING DISCUSSION NATIONAL ELECTORAL REFORM, INCLUDING THORNY ISSUE OF SWITCH TO SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS.

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